

# HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER "NEWS"

57 Hartford Street -- Phone: 863-2507 -- Email: [hszc108@yahoo.com](mailto:hszc108@yahoo.com) -- Website: [www.hszc.org](http://www.hszc.org) -- Jan., 2007

## Excerpts from "Leaving Home"

Rev. Myo Lahey's Dharma Talk, 12/2/2006

More and more, I'm sympathetic with when it's said that practitioners of old would sit in the cold until frost covered their mouths. Of course, that's a little too cold. But what that means is that it's so hard to say anything that's not instantly absurd. So they sat and the frost gathered. Each one, individual, and also depending completely on one another. Sometimes our Ancestors resorted to shouts and all kinds of stuff rather than to just say and do nothing at all, the expression that everyone is just now making, the supreme expression, also called *Zazen*.

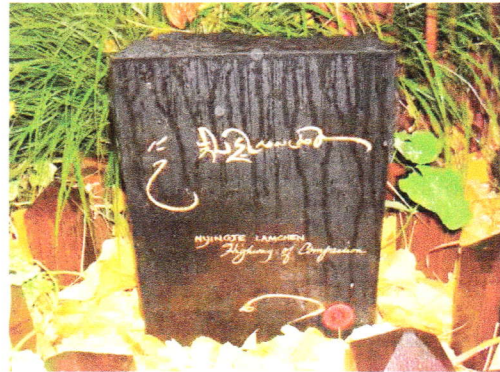
The practice of the supreme expression is also intimately involved, because this is Buddhism, with what's sometimes called, *leaving home*. It doesn't necessarily mean going off to live in the mountains. It means leaving our nest and our nest of course is an elaborate narrative about what our life is and who we are, our place in the world and so forth.

I'm intensely sympathetic with people's situations in the world, in their lives. And I feel very keenly people's joys and sorrows. But there isn't that much to be done. So, Shakyamuni Buddha said, I recommend leaving home, that is leaving the nest, leaving the place of imagined safety, whatever we have happened to call it, and venturing into the world naked and alone, although not exactly alone. So people have fled into the mountains in the hope of leaving all complications behind. And sometimes that helps and sometimes it doesn't. Most of the complications come right along with us. But sometimes to see that, one may need to take a little symbolic vacation from them.

Next Wednesday, we'll start our little mini (3-day) retreat here at Hartford Street and I hope you all feel welcome to join us. Sitting and letting the frost and moss grow over your mouth is kind of an amazing way to study "leaving home" without setting a foot out the door.

### JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 1-2	Zendo Closed/New Year's Holiday
Jan 3	Full Moon Ceremony
Jan 13	Soto-Rinzai Dialogue
Jan 15	Zendo Closed/MLK Holiday
Jan 24	Dogen's Birthday



Hartford  
Street  
History

By  
Jennifer  
Birkett

Some of you may remember that our altar used to have a picture of Trungpa Rinpoche on the right and Suzuki Roshi on the left. Here is why:

### Remembering Highway of Compassion

Near the bamboo grove in our temple garden is a black, granite stone. On the surface, engraved in gold leaf calligraphy is the name, "Highway of Compassion." In December 2000, HSZC was contacted by Donn Tatum, who asked to place a memorial for his former lover, Steve Lowell in our garden. He explained Steve's connection to our temple in an email to me as follows:

"In about 1975, the Hartford Street house was rented from Ray Herth to become *Dharmadhatu*, the Practice Center for Trungpa Rinpoche's students. Steve was the Center's first co-coordinator who made the deal. This was the first Dharma Center at Hartford Street. Steve was a student of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, a lineage holder in the Kagyu School of Tibetan Buddhism who taught widely in America from 1968 until his death in 1987. Trungpa Rinpoche was, among other things, a colleague and dear friend of Suzuki Roshi. Many urban centers were founded by his students, the earliest of which was in San Francisco. Steve taught meditation in Dharmadhatu Centers in San Francisco and Los Angeles until his death from AIDS in 1993. Steve was also (with me) co-founder of Paperback Traffic Bookstore on Castro Street. Steve continued teaching the Dharma until his death."

Steve's memorial stone was dedicated at HSZC on May 19th of 2001. It is a memorial for the many gay Buddhists who died of AIDS and an inspiration to Dharma practitioners who laid the groundwork so that we have places to practice today.

- THANK YOU -

Thank you to Rev. Myo and all the sangha members who helped and/or participated in our Rohatsu Sesshin, our Donor Recognition event, and in the producing and mailing of our Annual Year-End Appeal Letter. Gassho!

And Happy New Year to all!



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## "Ode to Issan-Ji"

(Read with a shout!)

Embraced in the Castro!  
A blue room facing the street!  
Zen Master Buckley,  
Looking for something to eat!  
Everybody! Everybody!  
Dragons, move slow!  
Coming and going!  
In the street there's a show!  
The Master, he waits, like Buckley the cat,  
Attending the Gym, he avoids getting fat!  
The Zazen of Ancestors, surely we try,  
Issan is watching, but for now, good-bye!

-Hogetsu (Max Swanger)

### MORNING (Monday-Friday)

5:30am-6:10 Zazen - Sitting Meditation  
6:10am-6:20 Kinhin - Walking Meditation  
6:20am-7:00 Zazen  
7:00am-7:20 Chanting (Service)  
7:20am-7:35 Soji - Temple Cleaning

### EVENING (Monday-Friday)

6:00pm-6:40 Zazen  
6:40pm-6:50 Chanting

### SATURDAY MORNING

6:30am-7:15 Zazen  
7:15am-7:35 Chanting  
7:35am-7:55 Soji

[BREAK]

9:10am-9:50 Zazen

10:00am-11:00 Dharma Talk followed by tea and cookies and discussion.

SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS - Closed

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## SANGHA.

JOIN us  
in ZAZEN!

Your Board of Directors  
invites you!

Julia Ten Eyck  
(President)

Rev. Myo Lahey  
(Member Ex Officio)



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## Donor Recognition Event

By Alex Jacobs

As a twist to the normal silent gathering routine, Hartford Street denizens decided to get together to hang out and talk. The donor dinner was an enjoyable venue to meet and greet, and get to know a bit more about those people you may have been sitting next to in the zendo for some time, but with whom you never actually shared any conversation. Deliciously catered with vegetarian food including: fruit topped "frushi," baked brie, and delicious desserts, the soiree, hosted at the home of our own Chuck Still and Larry Peiperl, was a sustaining venue for many of the donors that provide nourishment for the ongoing practice at the Hartford Street Zen Center. May the bonds we continue to create with each other, cycle back to nourish our ongoing practice of Buddha's Way. New Year's blessings and peace to all.

### Hartford Street Zen Center - Mission Statement

HSZC maintains a Center for Zen meditation and the study of Buddhism. HSZC seeks to express, make accessible, and embody the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha, guided by the teachings and the lineage of the Soto School as conveyed to us by Shunryu Suzuki Roshi, our founder Issan Dorsey, and other Buddhist teachers. HSZC acknowledges and values equally the expressions of practice in formal settings and in daily life. HSZC seeks to apply the tenets of Buddhism in ways that will enhance the lives of its members and members of San Francisco's LGBT community. All people are welcome.

### **Do you know what the Board does?**

#### Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

- Determine Organization's mission and purposes
- Select Executive positions
- Ensure effective organizational planning
- Ensure adequate resources and manage effectively
- Determine and monitor programs and services
- Enhance the Organization's public image
- Serve as a court of appeal
- Assess the Board's own performance
- Preserve / maximize the value of charitable assets

**Please join us for our Movie Night...**  
**On Sunday Jan. 21st at 5pm. showing:**

**A documentary on John King's  
San Quentin Buddhadharma Sangha.**

